



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,575	08/21/2003	Winnie C. Wu	MSFT-2733/305587.01	9794
41505	7590	07/03/2007		
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP (MICROSOFT CORPORATION) CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR 2929 ARCH STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891			EXAMINER ABEL JALIL, NEVEEN	
			ART UNIT 2165	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/03/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/646,575	<b>Applicant(s)</b> WU ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Neveen Abel-Jalil	<b>Art Unit</b> 2165	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6-April-2007 has been entered.
2. The amendment filed on 6-April-2007 has been received and entered. Claims 1-16 have been cancelled. Claims 17-36 have been newly added. Therefore, claims 17-36 are now pending.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 17-27, and 29-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Branson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,937,189).

As to claim 17, Branson et al. discloses a method for querying and returning instances of items comprising:

Art Unit: 2165

receiving from an application a request identifying an item stored in at least one database, said item having a scope that includes at least one additional item (See column 10, lines 40-56);

generating an object that encapsulates an instance of the identified item, the encapsulation providing a method for querying the at least one database (See column 5, lines 23-34) ;

executing a query on said object for at least one additional item, the query utilizing the scope of the identified item as a parameter (See column 5, lines 10-16, and see column 10, lines 1-20, and see column 14, lines 30-45); and

returning to the application at least one instance of the at least one additional item that matches the query (See column 9, lines 62-67, and see column 10, lines 1-3).

As to claim 18, Branson et al. discloses further comprising:

interfacing with a database of stored items, each item associated with at least one schema that defines an item's type (See column 5, lines 26-27); and

generating at least one data class for each item stored in said database, wherein the fields of the item's type map to the fields of the at least one data class (See column 7, lines 53-60).

As to claim 19, Branson et al. discloses wherein the at least one schema that defines an item's type is received from a third party (See column 5, lines 10-16, and see column 10, lines 1-20, and see column 14, lines 30-45).

As to claim 20, Branson et al. discloses wherein generating an instance of said identified item further comprises:

generating an instance of the identified item from at least one data class, wherein the generated instance includes methods specific to the data class (See column 14, lines 25-40).

As to claim 21, Branson et al. discloses wherein said object utilizes a connection to the database to query the database and modify the items stored in said database (See column 3, lines 3-5, and see column 20, lines 4-24).

As to claim 22, Branson et al. discloses wherein the query further specifies at least one of an item's property, an item's extensions, and an item's relationships as a query parameter (See column 5, lines 10-16, and see column 10, lines 1-20, and see column 14, lines 30-45).

As to claim 23, Branson et al. discloses further comprising:  
receiving an indication that said application has modified the at least one instance of the at least one additional item (See column 6, lines 14-20, and see column 24, lines 41-57).

As to claim 24, Branson et al. discloses wherein the object utilizes a method for saving changes to save the modifications to the at least one item stored in said database (See column 5, lines 24-34, and see column 20, lines 17-20).

Art Unit: 2165

As to claim 25, Branson et al. discloses wherein the scope of said identified item includes a plurality of items stored in a plurality of databases (See column 5, lines 24-34, and see column 20, lines 17-20).

As to claim 26, Branson et al. discloses wherein the object establishes a connection with the plurality of databases to query for the at least one additional item (See column 3, lines 3-5, and see column 20, lines 4-24).

As to claim 27, Branson et al. discloses wherein the object establishes an individual connection with a specific database in the plurality of databases to save changes to a specific item stored in said specific database (See column 3, lines 34-43, and see column 20, lines 4-24).

As to claim 29, Branson et al. discloses further comprising:  
maintaining a cache of the at least one instance of the at least one additional item that matches the query, wherein subsequent queries are performed against the cache (See column 24, lines 41-53).

As to claim 30, Branson et al. discloses further comprising:  
receiving an indication that an application has modified the at least one instance of the at least one additional item (See column 10, lines 11-30); and

Art Unit: 2165

utilizing a method for saving changes to the at least one instance of the at least one additional item in said cache (See column 6, lines 50-64, all changes are kept in the registry).

As to claim 31, Branson et al. discloses wherein said identified item is a set of items that includes one of an entire database of items, any subset of items in said database, and any individual item in said database (See column 16, lines 41-49, and see column 20, lines 10-24).

As to claim 32, Branson et al. discloses wherein the identified is an item of a type folder, the scope of the item of the type folder includes any items that are contained within the item of the type folder (See column 5, lines 25-30, also see column 7, lines 26-33).

As to claim 33, Branson et al. discloses wherein each item stored in said database includes a relationship to another item stored in said database, said relationship defined by a property in an item that is a source of the relationship and a property in an item that is the target of the relationship (See column 20, lines 42-59).

As to claim 34, Branson et al. discloses wherein a query that includes an item's relationships as a parameter returns an instance of any item that is the source a relationship and an instance of any item that is the target of a relationship (See column 20, lines 28-37).

As to claim 35, Branson et al. discloses further comprising:

receiving a request from an application to track changes to one of an item, an

item's extensions, and an item's relationships (See column 26, lines 5-10);

registering said application (See column 26, lines 16-27) for a notification service that notifies said application when any changes to one of the item, the item's extensions, and the item's relationships are detected (See column 25, lines 25-26, and see column 25, lines 62-67, wherein "an event" is a type of "notification", also see column 13, lines 11-23).

As to claim 36, Branson et al. discloses wherein said notification service notifies said application when any changes to items associated with the item, the item's extensions, and the item's relationships are detected (See column 25, lines 25-26, and see column 25, lines 62-67, wherein "an event" is a type of "notification").

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Branson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,937,189) in view of Plutowski (U.S. Patent No. 6,473,851).

As to claim 28, Branson et al. does not teach wherein the object includes a conflict handler method that is configured to detect when multiple applications modify instances of the same item and determine what modifications to save by utilizing a policy.



Art Unit: 2165

Plutowski teaches wherein the object includes a conflict handler method that is configured to detect when multiple applications modify instances of the same item and determine what modifications to save by utilizing a policy (See column 20, lines 5-21, teaches database access, and see column 24, lines 35-44, teaches conflict resolution detection).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Branson et al. with Plutowski to include wherein the object includes a conflict handler method that is configured to detect when multiple applications modify instances of the same item and determine what modifications to save by utilizing a policy to assure efficient access and persistent data storage in the database (See Plutowski column 2, lines 35-39).

### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 17-34 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-form 892 for list of cited references.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neveen Abel-Jalil whose telephone number is 571-272-4074. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5: 30PM EST.

Art Unit: 2165

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Neveen Abel-Jalil  
June 25, 2007